

# Martin Family Foundation Scholarships



*In collaboration with*  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



# Agenda

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Eligibility, Timelines, Routes



Martin Achievement Scholarship Details



Martin Honors Scholarship Details



Application components & advice



Tips for searching and applying competitively for scholarships beyond the Martin Family Foundation opportunities



# Martin Foundation

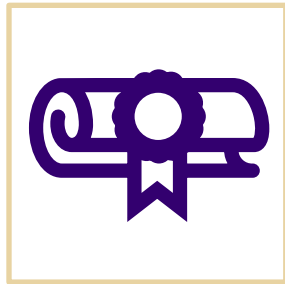
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- > Benn & Claribel Martin
  - Benn: civil engineer, worked on water & sewer treatment plants for west coast cities, including Seattle. Educated at NYU and UW, and took classes at community colleges throughout his life.
  - Claribel: parole officer in SF, dedicated her career to helping people rebuild their lives from troubled beginnings.
- > Benn's Vision
  - Impressed by community college systems and students.
  - Particularly interested in assisting students who have had a positive impact in their community.
  - Created the Martin Family Foundation and partnered with UW.
- > Board members are Benn & Claribel's friends & scholarship program alumni.



# Two Scholarships

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## Martin Achievement Scholarship

Apply when you will still be enrolled at your  
CC for another full academic year

Open annually in February-early April  
(April 4, 2024 for 2025 UW transfer)



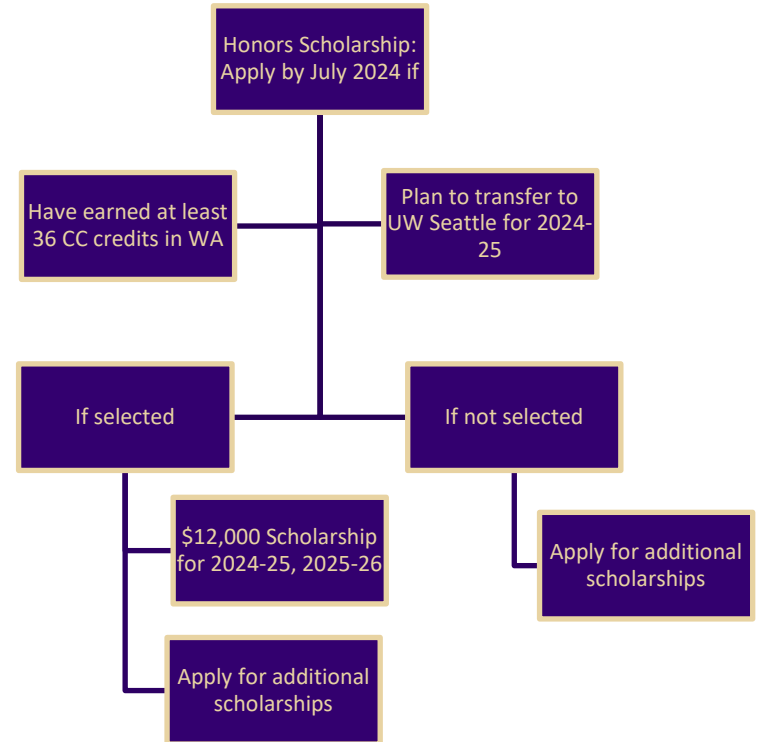
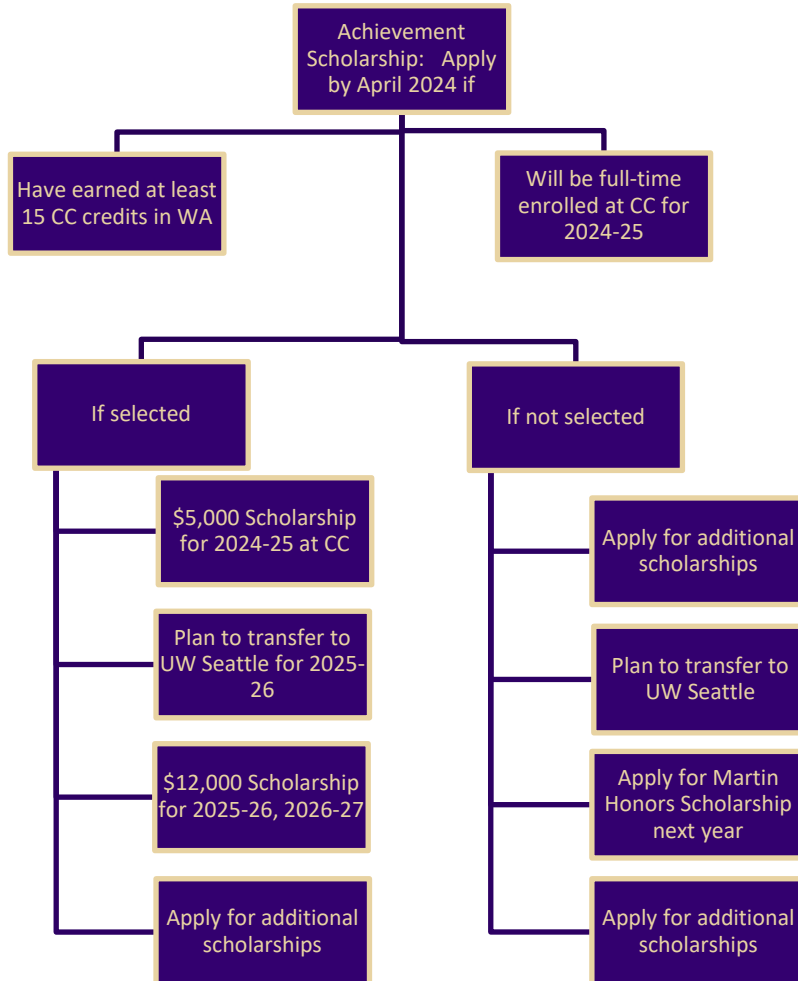
## Martin Honors Scholarship

Apply in summer if you are transferring to  
UW Seattle for 2024-25

Open annually May-early July



# Two Scholarships, Two Opportunities



Apply for UW admission separately, by the UW admission deadline right for you!



# Advice from Scholars

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- > "My #1 recommendation is to begin your application ahead of time.
- > You'll most likely have many things going on as a college student while completing your application, and it's so easy to push things aside just because you have a couple of months before the deadline.
- > Don't let yourself fall into this trap :)."

-- Arian



# Basic Eligibility Requirements

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- > Washington State residents who meet any one of the following three categories:
  - US citizens, or US Permanent Residents, or Eligible for in-state tuition through HB 1079 or DACA qualification.
  - For additional information about HB 1079 or DACA standards qualification, please visit <https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa> and please read about [UW's requirements](#).
- > Get to know [UW residency requirements](#)!



2022 Martin Achievement Scholars: Anaelin Lopez,  
Arian Ariaye, Christopher Kleeves, Linh Nguyen

# Martin Achievement Scholarship

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- > Apply while still at the community college for one more year
- > Students from all community colleges in WA are eligible!
- > Must have earned at least 15 CC credits
- > Exceptional ability in science, humanities, music art and/or leadership
- > Award contingent on admission to UW
- > \$5,000 for final year at community college, and
- > \$12,000/year for up to 3 years at UW
- > Flexible use of funds



2021 Martin Achievement Scholars:  
Clarissa Perez, MJ Mencias, Mussie Tsegay,  
Mya Leonhard, René Capella



# Martin Honors Scholarship

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- > Apply summer immediately before transfer (or before 18 credits earned at UW).
- > Must have earned at least 36 credits at any WA community college by matriculation.
- > Strength of character, intellectual ability, and sense of purpose
- > Expected to have well-formulated ideas about the direction of future studies and subsequent careers.

Award: contingent upon admission to UW

- > \$12,000/year for up to 3 years at UW
- > Flexible use of funds

# Martin Scholarship Applications

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- > Online application:
  - basic biographical and educational information, 4 short response questions
- > Current unofficial transcripts from all community colleges/universities attended
- > A Curriculum Vitae or activities resume listing honors, awards, scholarships, service, research, work experience, etc., and
- > Two letters of recommendation:
  - At least one from a faculty member addressing your intellectual curiosity and potential.
  - The other can be written by someone able to address your capabilities and volunteer/community involvement.



2020 Martin Achievement Scholars:  
Cassie Starr, Allegra Keys, Kayla  
Pezolano, Sam Ayars

# Advice from Scholars

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- > “Before sending a request to a letter of recommendation writer, it would be good to prepare a resume, curriculum vitae, or a “brag sheet” for the writer to use as a reference.
- > That way, they will be able to write good and applicable points about you that are on paper, along with their own personal input as well.
- > Additionally, it would be best if a request is sent out around a month in advance to allow for time as many letter writers are quite busy with other tasks.”

-- Mya



# Martin Scholarship Essays

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- > What are the two most significant courses you have taken at the community college in preparation for your career? Briefly explain why these courses were most significant? (500 words)
- > Describe an activity or experience that has been important in shaping, clarifying, and/or strengthening your motivation to pursue an undergraduate degree in your proposed field of study. Why do you think this particular activity or experience influenced you? (500 words)
- > Describe a recent particularly satisfying experience or activity at either work, community service, or with your family (do not repeat the experience described in the previous question). (600 words)
- > What additional personal information do you wish to share with the Martin Scholarship Review Committee? (500 words)



# Advice from Scholars

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- > “Start your essays early, read the prompts thoroughly and carefully.
- > Your essays are used to evaluate your candidacy, so it is important to put a decent amount of time and effort into writing them.
- > If your community college has a writing center, don’t be afraid to ask them for help with proofreading and syntax.”

-- Harry



# Advice from Scholars

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- > “Remember to pour your heart out into your essays. It is the time where you are able to share you who are, your passions, and your aspirations.
  - > Be honest and open, to the extent in which you are comfortable, with the struggles and barriers you’ve endured in your pursuit of higher education.
  - > This is your chance to have your story heard- good luck!”
- Clarissa



# Martin Achievement Interviews

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- > Internal campus review & identification of candidates to interview
- > Interviews in May with Martin Foundation Board Members (friends of Benn & Claribel & alumni Scholars)
- > Review your application
- > Practice
- > Be yourself!



# Martin Honors Process

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- > Application Period: May-July 1
- > Additional essay component in August
- > Interviews with the Board September 2024



2020-2022 Martin Honors Scholars:  
Axel Rochel, Carlos Morales, Shayne Jones,  
Harry Furey-Soper, Susan Muthoni, Audrey  
Santoyo, Camila Christensen, Morel  
Takougang



# Advice from Scholars

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- > "The number of essays and rounds can discourage you to apply, but you miss all of the shots that you don't take!
- > Besides, this scholarship is not principally about your academic achievement.
- > The Martin Family Foundation is really making an effort to know you as a person and understand what you have to offer to your community and the world.
- > So, pour your heart on those essays and be confident!"

-- Morel



# Advice from Scholars

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- > “Do not be afraid to tell your story. Be willing to be vulnerable and talk about your life experiences and how they have shaped you.
- > Choose a topic that matters to you when it comes to essay writing. Practice your interview, be prompt and listen to the questions carefully.”

-- Susan



# Top tips:

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- > Start early
- > Plan to do multiple drafts
- > Get feedback!

# Advice from Scholars

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- > “You are worth it! So stop questioning yourself, and go for it.
- > Take your time, don’t rush; make sure you give yourself plenty of time to write and review your essays. Read it to yourself out loud, and pour your heart out. Try to convey it in the writing...
- > Write your essay about your own experiences, achievement and challenges. Be authentic, but most importantly, you have to believe in yourself.
- > You belong here. Remember this is beginning, so start by applying. Good Luck!!

-- Mirian



# Advice from Scholars

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- > "When applying for a scholarship it can be easy to be overcome with excitement and anxiety all at once. I would ask you to remind yourself of everything that it took for you to get to this particular place in which you have the opportunity to apply for the scholarship in the first place.
- > Give yourself the space to breathe before you start writing and ask yourself, "What do I want to bring into my potential future? What vision and impact do I want to have on the community that I'm serving?".
- > If you have the time, please give yourself plenty of it to think about how you are going to show up as a student, peer, and leader at UW. Be thoughtful, but most of all just be yourself and be clear with what you want out of this experience."

-- Carlos



# For More Information

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- > Martin Scholarships Website:  
<http://expd.uw.edu/scholarships/martin>
- > Martin Achievement Application:  
<https://expd.uw.edu/expo/scholarships/martinachievement>
- > Martin Honors Application:  
<https://expd.uw.edu/expo/scholarships/martinfamily>
- > Next Deadlines:
  - Martin Achievement: April 4, 2024
  - Martin Honors: July 1, 2024

# Decide to Try and Apply!

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“How competitive is this scholarship?”

- > **FACT:** Only students who apply for scholarships, are selected for scholarships
- > **STRATEGY:** Instead of thinking about how competitive a scholarship is, consider how competitive YOU are for a scholarship
- > **FACT:** It takes practice
- > **STRATEGY:** Apply for scholarships all along the way

# Additional Scholarship Resources

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- > UW Office of Merit Scholarships, Fellowships & Awards
  - Searchable database of scholarships: <https://expd.uw.edu/expo/scholarships>
  - Lists of additional search tools: <http://expd.uw.edu/scholarships/search-for-scholarships/tools/>
  - Scholarship guides: <https://expd.uw.edu/scholarships/scholarship-search/lists/>
  - Workshops, info sessions, tips: <http://expd.uw.edu/scholarships/>
  - [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [email list](#) for scholarship notices
  - Scholarship advising and support once at UW
  
- > Examples of additional scholarships to consider:
  - Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship: <http://www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/undergraduate-transfer/>
  - Udall Undergraduate Scholarship: <https://www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/Scholarship/Scholarship.aspx>
  - Truman Scholarship: <https://www.truman.gov>



# Developing Your Candidacy

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## What can I do to become more competitive for any scholarships?

- > Maintain a good G.P.A., but it's not the only thing that matters
  - Scholarships selection committees are generally looking for your future potential as evidenced by your past achievements and engagements.
- > Get involved with community service and extracurricular activities that match your interests, passions (internships, research, volunteering, etc.)
- > Work and family obligations count!
  - Working in your school, summer employment, internships
  - Work that will provide you with transferable skills and insights into what you like and don't like to do
  - Family obligations: why those are important to you, how they influence your academic interests/goals/trajectory

# Defining Your Search

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Use search terms to guide your search

> Search terms:

- Use keywords, categories and search terms to define your search, but not to limit it.
- Example: Sophomore intended Biology major who wants to study abroad can look for
  - > general scholarships,
  - > Biology-specific scholarships,
  - > study abroad-specific scholarships,
  - > scholarships related to their community and other involvements, etc.

# Defining Your Search

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Use timelines to guide your search & plan ahead

> Timelines:

- Plan to apply 6-18 months in advance of when you plan to use the funds
  - > Fall is national scholarship deadline season
  - > Winter/spring is local scholarship deadline season
- Scholarship processes are slow!
- Your timeline is different from their timeline
  - > Apply before you know exactly what will happen

# Stay Organized & On Track

Award Name	Website Contact	Eligibility Note	Deadline	Rec letters?	Start Date	Date Submitted
Washington Opportunity Scholarship	<a href="https://www.waoppportunityscholarship.org/">https://www.waoppportunityscholarship.org/</a>	Financial Need; STEM field	2/29/2024	n/a	1/1/2024	
Hispanic Fund Scholarship	<a href="https://www.hsf.net/scholarship">https://www.hsf.net/scholarship</a>	Hispanic Heritage; 2.5 gpa	2/15/2024	Yes	1/1/2024	

# Stay in Touch!

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Office of Merit Scholarships, Fellowships & Awards

- > [scholarq@uw.edu](mailto:scholarq@uw.edu)
- > [expd.uw.edu/scholarships](http://expd.uw.edu/scholarships)

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